

## Message Text

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TRANSPORTATION-MR.FELDMAN(PHONE)

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P R 071826Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

AMCONSUL BREMEN

UNCLAS STATE 078117

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:ETRN, AFSP, NL, GW

SUBJECT:OPRED - COAST GUARD REQUEST TO ESTABLISH MARINE  
INSPECTION OFFICE AT ROTTERDAM

1. LETTER FROM COAST GUARD COMMANDANT REQUESTS AUTHORITY  
TO ESTABLISH AT ROTTERDAM A COAST GUARD (CG) MARINE  
INSPECTION OFFICE (MIO) PRIMARILY TO SERVE THE EUROPEAN  
REGION. ITS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:  
CONTINENTS OF EUROPE AND AFRICA AND INTERVENING BODIES OF  
WATER WEST OF THE MERIDIAN AT 42 DEGREES EAST LONGITUDE  
AND NORTH OF LATITUDE 26 DEGREES NORTH AND THE BORDERING  
LANDS, ISLANDS, AND OCEAN AREAS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC  
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OCEANNORTH OF 26 NORTH LATITUDE AND EAST OF THE MERIDIAN

THAT PASSES THROUGH CAPE RACE, NEWFOUNDLAND. OFFICE WOULD BE A STAFF COMPONENT OF US DIPLOMATIC MISSION. PROPOSED MANNING WOULD BE SIX MILITARY OFFICERS AND TWO FOREIGN NATIONAL CLERKS. THEIR POSITIONS WOULD BE OFFSET PARTIALLY BY DISESTABLISHING MERCHANT MARINE DETAILS AT ROTTERDAM AND BREMEN, REMAINDER BY USING RESERVE WITHIN EXISTING AUTHORIZED CG COMPLEMENT WORLDWIDE. CG HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH REORGANIZATION BEFORE JUNE 30, 1975.

2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF JUSTIFICATION CONTAINED IN COMMANDANT'S LETTER.

THE COAST GUARD HAS OBSERVED AN INCREASING TREND FOR UNITED STATES VESSELS TO OPERATE IN OVERSEAS AREAS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME. CG ANALYSIS OF THIS TREND INDICATES THAT IT WILL CONTINUE UNABATED FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO VESSELS ENGAGED IN OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH SEA AREA. IN ADDITION, CG HAS EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INSPECTION OF VESSELS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN EUROPEAN SHIPYARDS FOR EVENTUAL OPERATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES FLAG.

THE LAWS GOVERNING MARINE INSPECTION (TITLE 52 OF THE REVISED STATUTES) AND OTHER MORE RECENT ACTS PLACE THE US COAST GUARD AS THE PRIMARY FEDERAL AGENCY CONCERNED WITH THE SAFETY OF U.S. VESSELS. CG HAS THEREFORE QUESTIONED WHETHER OR NOT THESE VESSELS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF APPLICATION OF U.S. LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS THEY RELATE TO THE SAFETY OF THE VESSELS AND THEIR CREWS. THUS FAR, CG HAS RESPONDED TO THE QUESTION IN A LIMITED FASHION BY TEMPORARILY AUGMENTING COAST GUARD DETAILS ATTACHED TO U.S. CONSULATES AT ROTTERDAM AND BREMEN AND BY PROVIDING INSPECTION PERSONNEL FROM CONUS ON A TAD BASIS. THIS PROCEDURE HAS NOT PRODUCED THE DESIRED LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS AND IS NOT EFFICIENT. COAST GUARD BELIEVES ESTABLISHING A MARINE INSPECTION OFFICE AT ROTTERDAM WILL VASTLY IMPROVE CG OVERSEAS SAFETY CAPABILITY AND

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PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SERVICES TO OVER 100 VESSELS AND 2,000 SEAMEN LOCATED IN THE NORTH SEA AREA ALONE.

3. TITLE 33 CFR 1.01-20 GIVES THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE MIO AUTHORITY FOR INSPECTION OF VESSELS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO SAFE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, MANNING, AND OPERATION AND THEY ARE IN SEA-

WORTHY CONDITION FOR THE SERVICES IN WHICH THEY ARE OPERATED; SHIPYARD AND FACTORY INSPECTIONS; INVESTIGATION OF MARINE CASUALTIES; LICENSING, CERTIFICATING, SHIPMENT AND DISCHARGE OF SEAMEN; INVESTIGATION OF MISCONDUCT OF MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS AND SEAMEN; AND ENFORCEMENT OF VESSEL INSPECTION, NAVIGATION AND SEAMEN'S

LAWS IN GENERAL. MIO THUS APPEARS TO HAVE ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO PERFORM ALL SERVICES NOW BEING PERFORMED BY MERCHANT MARINE DETAILS. COAST GUARD BELIEVES THAT CLOSING OF BREMEN MMD OFFICE WILL NOT CAUSE ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM TO SHIPPING INDUSTRY THERE. MIO WILL BE PREPARED TO DETAIL PERSONNEL PERIODICALLY TO BREMEN AS NEEDS ARISE.

4. AS EXCEPTIONS TO NORMAL MIO AUTHORITY OUTLINED IN 33 CFR 1.01-20 MARINE INSPECTION OFFICE ROTTERDAM WOULD NOT INTEND TO PERFORM FUNCTION CONCERNING LIGHTS FOR FERRYBOATS. FURTHER, MIO WOULD NOT EXERCISE OUTSIDE U.S. THE AUTHORITY TO SHIP AND DISCHARGE SEAMEN. THIS LATTER RESPONSIBILITY TO SHIP AND DISCHARGE WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY OF CONSULAR OFFICERS AS PROVIDED FOR IN 22 CFR 82.15 AND 82.16.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE COM COMMENTS CONCERNING COAST GUARD REQUEST INCLUDING ANY IMPACT ON MISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES AND PERFORMANCE OF CONSULAR SERVICES, PLUS ANTICIPATED REACTION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS. INGERSOLL

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